

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Previously amended) A reversible plate holder according to Claim 17 wherein said top, bottom and neck parts define a single cylindrical tube having generally uniform wall thickness.
3. (Previously amended) A reversible plate holder according to Claim 17 wherein said inner wall surfaces of said top and said bottom conical recesses are generally flat as seen in sectional view extending axially and outwardly from said neck part toward said top and said bottom edges respectively.
4. (Previously amended) A reversible plate holder according to Claim 17 wherein said inner wall surfaces of said top and said bottom conical recesses define curved convex lines as seen in sectional view extending generally outwardly and axially from said top edge toward said neck part and from said bottom edge toward said neck part respectively.
5. (Previously amended) A reversible plate holder according to Claim 17 wherein said inner wall surfaces of said top and bottom conical recesses and said neck part define in sectional view extending generally radially and axially a continuous convex curved line.
6. (Previously amended) A reversible plate holder according to Claim 17 comprising an integral molded tubular cylinder.
7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously amended) A reversible plate holder according to Claim 17 wherein said annulus has outer walls that define a generally straight circular cylinder, and said top, bottom and neck part walls are non-uniform in thickness.

9. (Previously amended) A reversible plate holder according to Claim 17 wherein said top, bottom and neck parts have walls which extending axially are non-uniform in thickness.

10. (Previously amended) A reversible plate holder according to Claim 17 wherein said top, bottom and neck parts have inner wall surfaces that are contiguous and define in axial section a continuous line devoid of any inward radial projections.

11. (Original) A reversible plate holder according to Claim 10 wherein said top, bottom and neck parts have outer walls that are contiguous and define in axial section a continuous line devoid of any outward radial projections.

12. (Currently amended) A reversible plate holder operable to hold and support selectively first or second plates of different first and second diameters, respectively, each plate having a base, tapered side walls and a rim extending radially outward from said side walls, said reversible plate holder comprising:

a base having top and bottom parts with top and bottom surfaces respectively and a neck part between said top and bottom parts,

said top part having a top truncated conical recess extending downward from said top surface, which top surface is coincident with the base of said top conical recess cone ~~having~~ and has first diameter D1,

said bottom part having a bottom truncated conical recess extending upward from said bottom surface which bottom surface is coincident with the base of said bottom conical recess and has second diameter D2 which is less than D1, each of said conical recesses ~~the~~ having an inner wall surfaces surface defining a substantially uninterrupted conical shape from said neck to said top and bottom surfaces, respectively,

said top surface ~~which is~~ extending radially outward of said top conical recess and having a diameter corresponding to the rim diameter of said first plate for supporting same when placed thereon, said bottom surface ~~which is~~ extending radially outward of said bottom conical recess and having a diameter corresponding to the rim diameter of said second plate for supporting same when placed thereon when said base is inverted.

13. (Original) A reversible plate holder according to Claim 12 wherein said base has outer side wall surfaces which define a circular cylinder coaxial with said conical recesses.

14. (Original) A reversible plate holder according to Claim 12 wherein said base has outer side wall surfaces which define a rectangular block.

15. (Currently amended) A reversible plate holder according to Claim 17 for use with plates where each of said first and second plates has a base, tapered side walls extending from said base to a top rim that extends generally radially outward from said side walls, each of said rims has radial width and curves downward, and said top and bottom edges respectively of said annulus have thickness adapted to be less than said

radial width, such that said rim will overlie and extend over and partially around the outside of one of said edges, when said plate is positioned on said plate support.

16. (Currently amended) A reversible plate holder to hold and support selectively first and second plates of different first and second diameters[[,]] respectively, each plate having a base, tapered side walls and a rim extending radially outward from said side walls, said reversible plate holder comprising:

an annulus whose inside walls define truncated conical ~~shapes~~ recesses of different diameters at opposite ends of said annulus and a neck therebetween, said top end adapted to support and hold a first plate whose side walls and rim correspond in diameter to said top end and said adjacent conical walls, respectively, when said reversible plate holder is upright and to support and hold a second plate whose side walls and rim correspond in diameter to said bottom end and said adjacent conical walls, respectively, when said reversible plate holder is inverted,

in each of said conical recesses the inner wall surfaces defining a substantially uninterrupted conical shape from said neck to said top and bottom surfaces, respectively.

17. (Currently amended) A reversible plate holder to hold and support selectively first or second plates of different first and second diameters, respectively, said reversible plate holder comprising an annulus:

(A) having axially spaced top and bottom parts with top and bottom edges of diameters D1 and D2 respectively and a neck part of diameter D3 axially between said top and bottom parts, where $D1 > D2$ and $D2 > D3$,

(B) said top part having inner wall surfaces that define a truncated top conical recess,

(C) said bottom part having inner wall surfaces that define an inverted truncated bottom conical recess generally coaxial with said top conical recess,

where each of said top and bottom part inner wall surfaces respectively defines a substantially uninterrupted conical shape from said neck to said top and bottom edges of said inverted top and bottom truncated conical recesses, respectively, and

whereby said annulus in upright position has said top conical recess at the top for supporting said first plate, and said annulus in inverted position has said bottom conical recess at the top for supporting said second plate.

18. (Currently amended) A reversible plate holder to hold and support selectively first or second plates of different first and second diameters, respectively, where each of said plates has a base[[,]] and tapered side walls for a full height extending from said base to a top rim that extends generally radially outward from said side walls, said reversible plate holder comprising an annulus:

(A) having axially spaced top and bottom parts with top and bottom edges of diameters D1 and D2 respectively and a neck part of diameter D3 axially between said top and bottom parts, where $D1 > D2$ and $D2 > D3$,

(B) said top part having inner wall surfaces that define a truncated top conical recess,

(C) said bottom part having inner wall surfaces that define an inverted truncated bottom conical recess generally coaxial with said top conical recess,

where each of said top and bottom part inner wall surfaces respectively defines a substantially uninterrupted conical shape from said neck to said top and bottom edges of said inverted top and bottom truncated conical recesses, respectively, and

whereby said annulus in upright position has said top conical recess at the top for supporting said first plate, and said annulus in inverted position has said bottom conical recess at the top for supporting said second plate, said inner side wall surfaces of said top and bottom parts respectively adapted to support said tapered walls along substantially their full height from said base of said plate to said top rim thereof.

19. (Currently amended) A reversible plate holder to hold and support selectively first or second plates of different first and second diameters, respectively, said reversible plate holder comprising an annulus:

(A) having axially spaced top and bottom parts with top and bottom edges of diameters D1 and D2 respectively and a neck part of diameter D3 axially between said top and bottom parts, where $D1 > D2$ and $D2 > D3$,

(B) said top part and bottom parts each defining a truncated conical recess, [whose] the walls of each recess [extend downward] extending toward said neck part in a substantially uninterrupted conical shape becoming smaller from said top and bottom edges, respectively,

(C) said bottom part having inner wall surfaces that define an inverted truncated bottom conical recess generally coaxial with said top conical recess,

where each of said top and bottom part inner wall surfaces respectively defines a substantially uninterrupted conical shape from said neck to said top and bottom edges of said inverted top and bottom truncated conical recesses, respectively, and

whereby said annulus in upright position has said top conical recess at the top for supporting said first plate, and said annulus in inverted position has said bottom conical recess at the top for supporting said second plate.

20. (Currently amended) A reversible plate holder according to Claim 17 further comprising a layer of sticky material on said inner wall surfaces of said top and bottom conical recesses for stabilizing plates in said recesses,

21. (New) The reversible plate holder according to Claim 17 wherein the inner wall surfaces formed by said top part, neck and bottom part define a single substantially uninterrupted shape between said top and bottom surfaces, said shape being selected from the group consisting of linear, arcuate and chevron shapes.